

INITIATIVES 2016-17**CT Council on Developmental Disabilities**

Name: Creating a Framework to Improve
School Climate for Students with Disabilities
Grantee: Governor's Prevention Partnership, Year Two
Funding: \$113,000 TOTAL FUNDING
Dates: January 1, 2015 to September 30, 2017
Priority Area: Education and School Climate

The goal of this initiative is to develop, implement and evaluate a pilot project to improve school climate for students with disabilities, which will mitigate bullying and harassment of students with disabilities. This included the development of materials for a school wide All Abilities Alliance, which is a student run effort to involve all students in disability awareness and other activities. The project has developed a handbook to assist other schools in developing this Alliance. <http://www.preventionworksct.org/resources/all-abilities-alliance-handbook.html>

Name: CT KASA (Kids as Self-Advocates)
Grantee: PATH/Parent to Parent/Family Voices of CT
Funding: \$48,000
Dates: January 1, 2015to September 30, 2017
Priority Area: Leadership Development

CT-KASA is a youth led initiative of young adults ages 14 to 24 who have disabilities. The Council funded this initiative to grow the self-advocacy movement for youth with disabilities. In their initial year of funding CT KASA held meetings with youth with disabilities across the state. They have done career/leadership development meetings, Educational webinars/conference calls and several fun/recreational events.

Project: Housing Matters/Community Connector Project
Grantee: ARC CT
Funding: \$75,353
Dates: January 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016
Priority area: Housing

To create an innovative integrated community in which individuals with IDD can realize their right to live, work and play in an accessible community of their choosing, and to create a road map for the development of such communities. Additionally, through the Community Connector Project, to develop a mechanism of family support that creates a stable, easy to navigate system for accessing housing resources, funding and supports. This includes a roommate matching system to assist families in locating other individuals with disabilities who may be able to room with their son or daughter.

Project: Partners in Policymaking
Grantee: Council on Developmental Disabilities Initiative with the DD Network (OPA and the UCEDD)
Funding: \$65,000 Annually
Priority Area: Self Advocacy and Leadership

The Council, in partnership with the UCEDD and the Office of Protection and Advocacy, implements Partners in Policymaking leadership training. annually This partnership uses staff and resources from the Council and our DD Network partners. Thirty participants are selected annually for this program, including fifteen self-advocates and fifteen parents. This intense leadership training program consists of seven overnight sessions at a hotel. The content is based on a nationally recognized curriculum and includes legislative advocacy, effective advocacy strategies, communication, disability policy, history, IDEA, assistive technology and strategies to run a meeting. All participants complete an advocacy project during the training. Graduates now serve on Boards, Commissions, Councils and an array of advocacy efforts across the state.

Project: The Connecticut Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance

Grantee: The State Independent Living Council

Funding: \$28,000 Annually Since 2012

Priority Area: Self Advocacy and Leadership Development

The CT Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance has a membership of over 70 individuals and organizations across the state. The Alliance held its initial meeting in January 2014. Funded through the Council, the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities the State Independent Living Council and the University of Connecticut Center for Excellence, the Alliance hired a part time coordinator, who is contracted through the State Independent Living Council. The SILC also houses the Disability Calendar, an interactive calendar that can be found at <http://www.calendarwiz.com/ctdisabilityeventcalendar>

The Alliance is led by a Steering Committee, with membership from 10 organizations, which oversees the Alliance work and meets monthly. The Alliance has held 3 Candidate Forums on disability Issues in 2012, 2014 and 2016. They hold informational calls during the legislative session, each Friday afternoon, to assist members in understanding current legislative issues. They hold informational meetings six times a year in addition to special events on topical issues.

Project: Customized Employment

Grantee: Marc Gold Associates, Missouri

Funding: \$48,780 from November 1,2016—September 30, 2017

Priority Area: Employment

The Council has worked with a committee including the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Department of Labor, the Department of Developmental Disabilities, the Office of Protection and Advocacy and the University of Ct Center on Disabilities to implement a certification program for providers who wish to be certified in the development of customized employment opportunities for all people with disabilities in Connecticut.